

I am most impressed by this effort because it is student driven. Not only do Sun Valley students raise the money, but on December 14th, a group of students will actually pick up the children at school and take them to Monroe Mall where they will purchase them new clothes, shoes, and coats. They take the children to visit Santa, have lunch at Chick-Fil-A, and end their visit by taking the kids to get ice cream. Later, Sun Valley students will shop for essential items, food, and new school supplies for the children, as well as toys and gifts for their brothers and sisters. Then on December 16th, the students will deliver all the gifts to the family as well as food for a Christmas feast.

Leading this student driven program are the co-chairs of the Children's Christmas Party, Student Council President Alexandra Knight Efrid, and Student Council Vice-President Paige Lillia Donham. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Likewise, the Student Council faculty advisors, James P. Wall IV and Christopher Martin, have also worked countless hours to help the students in their effort. I would like to recognize the efforts of students in the classes of Mr. Wall, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. Faulkner. They raised the most money out of all the classes at Sun Valley, and Mr. Reynolds class alone raised over \$2,000 for this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say that I represent Sun Valley High School. In a day and age where people tend to think only of themselves, here is a shining example of a group of young people who know what Christmas is really all about. I commend them for their efforts to make their community a better place by helping the less fortunate during this holiday season. I hope that this wonderful effort will continue at Sun Valley for many years to come.

THANKING CINDY FOX VON GOGH
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on January 2, 2007, we rise to thank Ms. Cindy Fox von Gogh for over thirty-two years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives.

Cindy began serving the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 as the office Manager for John Dent (D-PA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor Standards. In 1978 she embraced the role of Committee Archivist for Carl D. Perkins (D-KY), Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor. While serving in this capacity Cindy was instrumental in expanding the use of computers in Committee office operations.

Milestones during her career at the House include; managing a Micro VAX computer system supporting the Full Committee and eight Subcommittees, implementation of a Novell Network and authoring a Personal Computer Reference Guide for staff. Cindy also created one of the first web sites in the House and was recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation with an award for one of the best web sites on Capitol Hill setting the standard of excellence in web design.

Cindy's contributions to Committee operations were achieved while she maintained her commitment to publish into the archives the Committee Legislative Calendar chronicling Committee proceedings as an official historical document of the House.

Kindhearted, professional and dedicated are words used by her colleagues to describe Cindy. She is known throughout the House as a person you can rely on to do what's right. She has earned the reputation as a person with a calm demeanor and respect for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Cindy is truly an inspiration in nonpartisan service to the Committee and the House. She served six Chairmen irrespective of which party was the majority. We are grateful for all Cindy has done during the past thirty-two years serving the Committee, this institution and the citizens of our country. Her service to the House is respected by the Chairmen, Members and staff that have benefited from her expertise, institutional knowledge and unwavering disposition.

On behalf of the Committee and the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Cindy for her many years of dedication and outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Cindy many wonderful years fulfilling her retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical treatment, I was unable to attend votes on Friday, December 8, 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

H.R. 6406—"Nay". To modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6111—"Yea". Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. I was particularly interested in a provision of this bill that provides an increase in payments to Medicare physician payments. I am concerned with the reimbursement rates and the Gross Domestic Product-based formula known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) used to calculate healthcare services rendered. Using the SGR formula, without this fix, Medicare was scheduled to cut physician payments by nearly 5 percent effective January 1, 2007. I believe that we need to reform our reimbursement structure to keep physicians participating in both Medicare and TRICARE. The constituents in my district, both the doctors and patients, have called my office to let me know this is particularly important to them, especially as the number of enrollees in both programs is increasing. I was very pleased this provision was included in H.R. 6111.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICE OF FIVE FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the heroism and devotion to duty of five U.S. Forest Service firefighters, who gave their lives in the line of duty protecting families and homes from the ravages of a ferocious wildfire that overwhelmed their truck.

The 41st Congressional District includes a series of rugged mountain ranges with thousands of acres of national forest, but also thousands of homes and families. They include some of the most beautiful scenery in Southern California, but they are also home to some of the most dangerous wind-driven wildfires during our annual season of Santa Ana Winds.

I have come to know and deeply respect the firefighters who protect these homes and fight these fires. They are among the most professional and resourceful in the nation. Their heroism and tenacity have made the mountains a safer place to live.

So it is with the deepest sorrow that I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of five of these brave federal firefighters during the Esperanza Fire in the mountains east of San Bernardino. Those who gave their lives in the line of duty were Engine Captain Mark Loutzenhiser, Fire Engine Operator Jess McLean, Assistant Fire Engine Operator Jason McKay, Firefighter Daniel Hoover-Najera, and Firefighter Pablo Cerda.

Mark Loutzenhiser, a father of three, was a vital member of his hometown of Idyllwild, California. He coached youth sports and was considered a friend by nearly everyone in town. He had 21 years of firefighting service and was a certified emergency management technician. He had previously worked as a hotshot crewman for the Vista Grande Hot Shots and also as a volunteer firefighter for Riverside County. He is survived by his children and his wife Maria Loutzenhiser, a Forest Service employee who joined Mark on the firelines until the birth of their children.

Jess McLean had seven years of firefighting service and had been a hotshot for three years with the Vista Grande Hot Shots. He was a hometown hero—graduating from Banning High School in 1997 and attending fire science classes at Crafton Hills College. He was a resident of Beaumont, CA. He is survived by his wife Karen McLean and his mother Cecelia McLean.

Jason McKay spent four years as a volunteer firefighter in the High Desert town of Adelanto before joining the Forest Service five years ago. He also served on the Mojave Greens Type II crew. He was a certified EMT and earned an associate's degree in fire science. He was a resident of Phelan, also in the High Desert. He is survived by his mother Bonnie J. McKay and his father Robert McKay.

Daniel Hoover-Najera began his firefighting career with the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was serving as a seasonal Forest Service employee this year. He worked on the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was a seasonal employee in 2006. Just 20 years old, he